

Aruba to host 59th CARPHA Congress



Dr Simeon and Minister Schwengle

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's Minister of Public Health, Elderly Care and Sport, Dr. Alex Schwengle, welcomed island media to introduce Dr. Donald Simeon, Deputy Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency, (CARPHA), which will be conducting their 59th annual conference on Aruba May 1 through 3, 2014.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is a new, single regional public health agency for the Caribbean, combining five agencies which began meeting nearly 60 years past. It was legally established in July 2011 by an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed by Caribbean Community Member States and began operation in January 2013. "The Agency rationalizes public health arrangements in the Region by combining the functions of five Caribbean Regional Health Institutes (RHIs) into a single agency." Member agencies are:

- * The Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)
- * The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)
- * The Caribbean Food and

Nutrition Institute (CFNI)
 * The Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC)
 * The Caribbean Regional Drug Testing Laboratory (CRDTL)

Their annual conference is "the largest health research conference in the English-speaking Caribbean, and they expect nearly 250 delegates in attendance, comprised of researchers, policy makers and health care providers.

"The CARPHA Aruba to host 59th CARPHA Congress Conference creates a unique network of health stakeholders who share needs, information and experiences," explained Dr. Simeon.

Meetings of the CARPHA Executive Board will begin on April 28 to decide on policies for the coming year. During the three days of the actual conference, there will be presentations by delegates spanning the region, presenting 29 research papers, two of them by local Aruban researchers.

This year's conference topic is "Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases through the Life Course." Important issues such as childhood obesity, adolescent risk behav-

iors, quality and coverage of care, biological, social, economic and environmental determinants of health and health of the elderly are the focus of the research studies and the results that will be imparted by guest speakers.

Two important prizes for research will be presented during the conference; the David Picou Young Researcher Prize, which is awarded for the best paper presented by a Caribbean investigator who is not yet an established researcher, and the Student Prize, for the best paper by a student or student group.

CARPHA Conference 2014 presentations and workshops will be conducted in the Renaissance Conference Center in Oranjestad beginning Thursday morning, May 1.

Continued on pg 2

Congress extends US borrowing authority until 2015

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lawmakers approved a 13-month extension of US borrowing authority with no strings attached Wednesday, shelving a fractious political debate over the nation's debt ceiling until after November's mid-term elections.

The Senate passed the legislation 55-43, marking a dramatic victory for President Barack Obama, who had demanded a debt ceiling hike with no political riders or other legislation attached.

The measure, which cleared the House of Representatives a day earlier, now goes to the White House for Obama's signature.

An uncomplicated extension of borrowing authority without other conditions would mark a shift away from recent confrontations

that brought the world's largest economy to the brink of default, culminating in the US government being shuttered for 16 days in October.

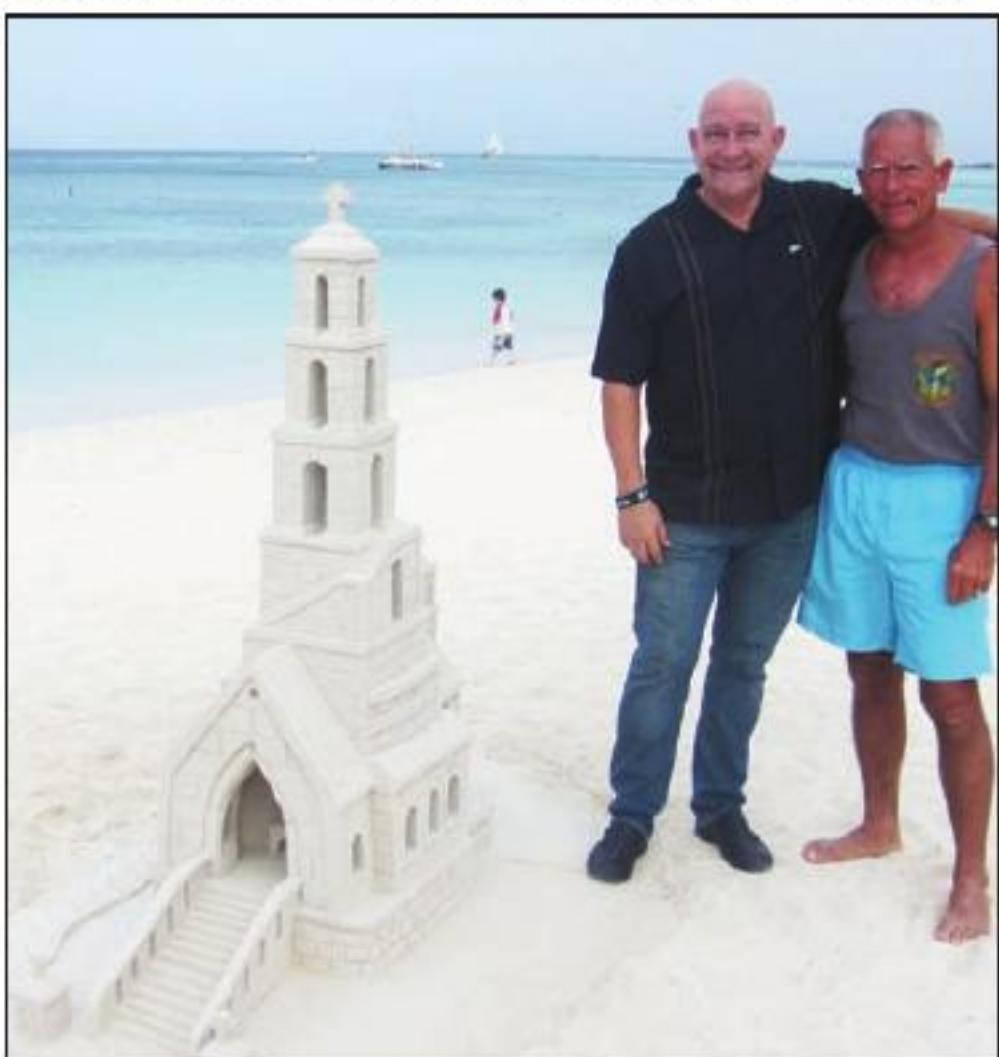
It could also avoid the turmoil that rocked US and international markets during the previous debt limit fights.

But the bill was nearly torpedoed in a tense procedural vote minutes earlier, when the Senate's Republican leaders struggled to muster enough votes to overcome a blocking tactic known as a filibuster from within their ranks.

In the end, 12 Republicans voted along with all Democrats to advance the bill, although no Republicans backed its final passage.

"What needed to get done got done," said Senator Bob Corker, one of the dozen Republicans who helped move the bill forward.

Now on display: Beautiful sand castle at the Marriott Ocean Club Beach



Anyone wishing to witness a beautiful artwork can do this now at the Marriott Ocean Club beach. Mr. Marc Mangia visiting Aruba and staying at the Marriott Ocean Club created a spectacular sand castle on the beach. During an honoring ceremony of different guests of Aruba, some of the guests commented on Mr. Mangia's work of art to Aruba Tourism Authority's Ricardo Croes, who decided to go and see for himself and was so impressed he took some pictures with Marc and his castle to share. Mr. Mangia commented that the castle was created in 6 days with a lot of dedication and tools he brought along with him to Aruba. Mr. Mangia said he has plans to compete in the future with his art of building sand castles. Photo show Mr. Mangia (R) posing beside his beautiful creation at Marriot's beach with ATA's Ricardo Croes.

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Repsol has completed their 2-D mapping of the soil around Aruba



Minister De Meza

ORANJESTAD -- The Minister of Economic and Energy Affairs, Mike de Meza, recently announced in a government press conference, that REPSOL is finished with their 2-D mapping of Aruban soil. The Aruban government made the decision to proceed with an exploratory phase based on Repsol's discovery of one of the largest gas reserves in the Caribbean close to Aruba's territorial waters. Also because in the areas

around Aruba there is an interesting pattern of interesting materials in our marine sub soil. The government is intent on sounding out the possibilities that exists. After a public tender, REPSOL won the contract to do the preliminary work and possibly the exploration for Aruba.

The 2-dimensional (seismographic) work of our marine sub soil has been completed. They have begun the second phase of interpret-

ing the seismological data collected. According to de Meza, "the indications are very interesting and there is strong indication that very soon we can make a decision to go ahead with exploration in a 3-dimensional form. Within one or two months we should have more assurance."

According to de Meza, if everything continues to move

ahead as it is now, Aruba may determine by the start of 2015 to proceed with what is called a "proef boring" (proof drilling).

The work takes a great deal of time before we can actually reach the phase of exploration. It also means making large investments by the company in charge of the work. The Minister believes that the overall

investment could reach as much as 100 million dollars. However, says de Meza, we cannot make any guarantees that there is anything despite the positive indications. We have to just wait for a final and concrete decision. He hopes that within a couple of months he could provide more information on this matter.

Aruba to host 59th CARPHA Congress

Continued from pg 1

The organizers plan a "town hall" type meeting for the Aruban community the evening prior, on Wednesday, April 30, with information and advisories for the general public regarding Caribbean health issues. The language and information is formulated specifically to be easily understood by the average layman, and Dr. Simeon extended an invitation to all Aruban residents with health concerns to attend.

For more information and registration for this year's CARPHA Conference, visit their website dedicated to the event: <http://conference.carpha.org/>

For more information about CARPHA and their work, visit their home site: <http://carpha.org/>

By Rosalie Klein

Specials for Lovers

Valentine's Breakfast

Including unlimited strawberry mimosas
7:00 - 11:30 am





Friday, February 14th

Valentine's Dinner for Two

Special Italian Buffet for two including a bottle of house wine and live entertainment
5:30 - 10:30 pm

\$85.00*
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*15% service charge will be added to check

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Minister meets three groups in charge of guidance of minors



Last Monday Minister Dowers met with Fundacion Guia Mi, Voogdij Raad and Orthopedagogisch Centrum. They met to discuss the Minister's management plan. The three departments work together on various territories.

Fundacion Guia Mi is the organization responsible for all children placed in government care centers. They have been doing an excellent job for many years. However, there is currently some challenges with respect to the finances of this organization. Then there is the challenge regarding the number of persons in this department.

There is currently a list of more or less 100 children who must receive attention in court so that they can be put under guardianship. This means that the department will have to be reinforced (more personnel).

This problem, reportedly,

is very serious and requires a solution for the children. It means a solution for our community in its entirety. We want to ensure tranquility, development, and the prevention of crimes in our community. It is crucial that these departments function optimally, according to representatives of the organization.

The group also addressed the challenges that the Orthopedagogical Center has. They have begun the renovation and expansion of this facility and the preparation of furnishing this facility.

They also discussed the challenges they have with children that are becoming more rebellious and how to deal with that situation.

The Minister indicated that much was discussed and that in the upcoming days there will be more information on the plans and challenges of these departments.



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Aruba's 60th Carnaval

Contestants Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2014				
13-feb	T-Prince	Picante	1	Tsunami
13-feb	King Power	Batty Roller	1	Tsunami
13-feb	Dr. Steeve	Heckle & Teckle	1	Tsunami
13-feb	Mighty Ninja	What I learn in life	1	Tsunami
13-feb	Mighty Ninja	Don't rush it	1	Tsunami
13-feb	Thunder	Tighten Jam	1	Contegious
13-feb	Doggy	Jamming on the Street	1	Contegious
13-feb	Mighty BP	Carnaval 60 caya nan ta cayente	1	Talen Toso Band
13-feb	Mighty Briljant	The Years	1	D'Licious
13-feb	Jerrino Bass	Follow Me	1	D'Licious
13-feb	Jerrino Bass	Ainda Falta	1	D'Licious
13-feb	Mighty Black Shadow	I'm in love with carnival	1	D'Licious
13-feb	Mr. Uniq	D Soca Explorer	1	D'Licious
13-feb	Mr. Uniq	What do we want?	1	D'Licious
13-feb	Ofo	Chacal	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Ofo	One Goal	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Big Kock	Mi mes un hendernan	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Big Kock	Semper riba Pia	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Lady Bell	My people need love	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Lady Bell	Caya ta yama mi	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Mr Full SVE	Don't touch she boom boom	1	N-Fuzion
13-feb	Mighty Tattoo	Los Lage	1	Zeta Band
13-feb	Mighty Tattoo	Nada Contra Bo	1	Zeta Band
13-feb	Tuyo	My puppy	1	This and That
13-feb	King Chicho	It's a fact	1	This and That
13-feb	King Chicho	Pyama party	1	This and That
13-feb	Mighty C.N.	In the village	1	This and That
13-feb	King Jifo	Selfy in Carnaval	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	The Commissioner	Faya bo ta hanja	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	The Commissioner	Aruba one big happy family	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	Chefcook	Pussy Cat	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	Mighty Rusty	Don't touch me bumper	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	King Bottle	Play mass for 60	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	Master Lito	Tenta nan ta tenta	1	XC_Lanz
13-feb	Jaws	Tribute to Tsambelho	1	Paraketo
13-feb	Marlon Wong	Pump it up	1	Paraketo
13-feb	Kempi	Meet Him	1	Youth Xtreme
13-feb	Kempi	Mas Placa	1	Youth Xtreme
13-feb	Marky Bee	Give me a Chance	1	Youth Xtreme
13-feb	Razor Sharp	First Place	1	Youth Xtreme
13-feb	Mickey	Crush	1	Youth Xtreme
13-feb	101 (One O One)	Laga Los	1	Youth Xtreme
13-feb	Big One	Madman Comin'	1	Youth Xtreme

Carnaval Schedule



Thu -Feb 13: Pre-Final Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014
(Location - The Carnaval Village in San Nicolas) 7 p.m.

SAT - Feb 15: Grand Final Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014
(Location - The Carnaval Village in San Nicolas) 8 p.m.

SUN - Feb 15: Grand Children's Carnaval Parade San Nicolas - 12 p.m.



Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

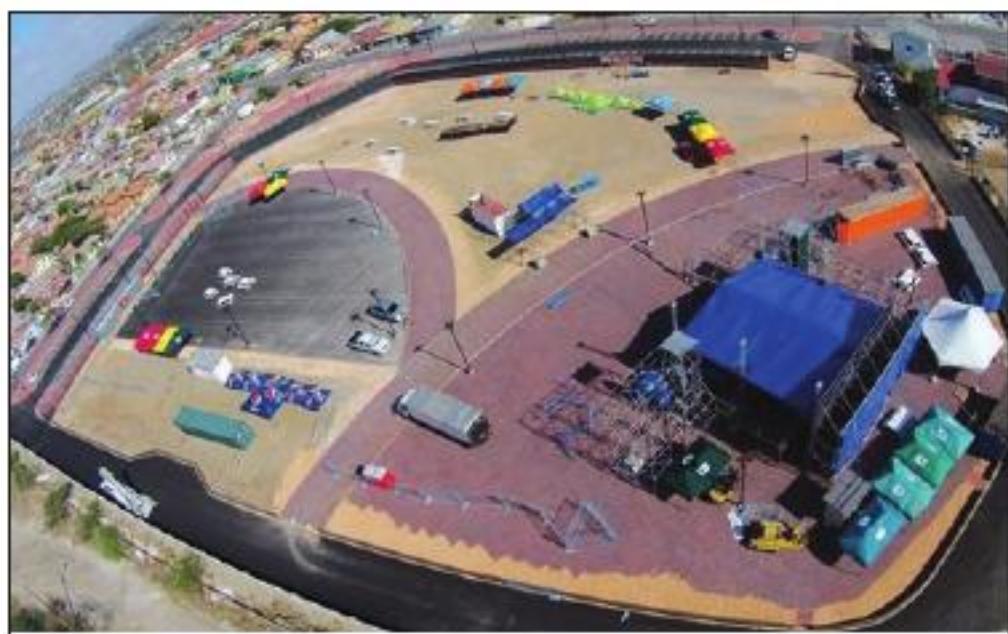
Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

SETAR N.V. has an important role in the Caiso & Soca Monarch Carnival Village



Carnaval Village

SEROE BLANCO – SETAR N.V. is one of the main sponsors of Carnaval 60 and a strategic partner of 'Fundacion Musica,' which organizes the annual Caiso & Soca (Calypso and Roadmarch) contest. The company is playing an important role in this year's competition for the Caiso & Soca Monarch, taking place for the first time in the newly constructed Carnaval Village in San Nicolas.

SETAR is responsible for all the telecommunications services during this event. SETAR's team will ensure the latest, and locally equipped, modern Fiber Optic technology devices, ensuring a high Internet speed, along with WI-FI, guaranteeing attendees a high quality WI-FI service for FREE!

During the final Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014 night, SETAR will give away gadgets, noisemakers, and many other great items. The grand prize will entail a raffle awarding a ticket for two persons to go to the first home game of the U.S. Major League season with Aruba's own Boston Red Sox player, Xander Bogaerts, at Fenway Park.

The winner will be among attendees of the Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014.

Tickets are available at all Lotto re-sellers or at the door on the night of the event.

Those who cannot go to the Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014 event can view it via pay per view for only Afsl. 99; for those abroad the event is online for \$55.



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Enjoy a different Valentine's ambiance at Sweet Pepper Restaurant with song stylist C-Zar Olarte and free Champagne!



mantic music, transporting couples back to the first day, the first look, the first word. Sweet Pepper Restaurant also offers very appealing breakfast and lunch menus. Do not hesitate to share a romantic breakfast or lunch with that special person in your life.

Every couple dining at Sweet Pepper restaurant will receive a free glass of Champagne or Ponche Crema, and all ladies a gift of a lovely flower. The menu offers a wide array of delicious meat and seafood dishes to suit anyone's craving. This will surely be a night you must not miss!

Sweet Pepper Restaurant is situated in the Caribbean Palm Village in Noord. For reservations call at tel: 5860740. Seating is limited, so reserve early.

NOORD - Tomorrow is Valentine's Day and Sweet Pepper Restaurant is gearing up to make this a very special day for all its patrons. The cozy restaurant is offering couples and all those who want to pamper their loved ones a cozy atmosphere combined with a special menu for only US\$ 34.95.

C-Zar Olarte, one of the island's most talented singers, will entertain diners with a special Valentine's Day repertoire of boleros and ro-

Aruba's Weather Update



WEATHER:
MOSTLY SUNNY AND GENERALLY DRY.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 30 CENTIGRADE / **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 26 CENTIGRADE.

SUNRISE 07:03 / **SUNSET** 06:46 PM.

WIND: FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLY WINDS WITH AN AVERAGE OF 20 KTS GUSTING UP TO 32 KTS.

GENERAL SITUATION:

A DOMINANT HIGH PRESSURE AREA OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLY WINDS.

WEATHER IS STABLE AND GENERALLY DRY, HOWEVER FROM TIME TO TIME AN INCREASE IN CLOUD COVERAGE, CAN CAUSE A SHORT SHOWER MAINLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AND EARLY MORNING HOURS.

THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL IS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE.

SAHARAN DUST IS BLOWING ACROSS OUR REGION BUT THE AMOUNT IS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE.

MARINE CONDITIONS:

WAVE DIRECCION WILL BE NORTHEAST WITH WAVE-HEIGHTS BETWEEN 5 TO 7 FEET.

USE CAUTION OVER OPEN WATERS.

WEATHER EXPECTATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK:

MOSTLY SUNNY AND GENERALLY DRY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF A PASSING SHOWER OF SHORT DURATION MAINLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AND EARLY MORNING HOURS.

TRADEWINDS REMAIN FRESH TO STRONG TILL FRIDAY AND DIMINISH GRADUALLY AFTERWARDS.

TEMPERATURE WILL FLUCUATE AROUND NORMAL.



Sweet Peppers

Restaurant & Bar
Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

Appetizer

Caribbean Seafood
Our Famous mixed seafood soup served with chives and lemon.

Goat Cheese Mixed Green Salad
Served with deep fried goat cheese, tomatoes and black olive vinaigrette and Mango.

Main Entree

Shrimps and Vegetables Rolled
Served with rice, grilled vegetables brochettes and Strawberry lemon sauce.

or

Surf & Turf
Beef tenderloin, scallops and shrimps served with mashed potatoes, vegetables and red wine sauce.

or

Meat TRIO
Charcoal grilled beef tenderloin, Chicken and Argentinian Chorizo served with vegetable and chimichurri sauce.

Dessert

Oreo Cheese Cake
on a bed of Cherries Jubilee.

Free Welcome Drink!
Strawberry Champagne/
Ponche Crema

Price p/p
\$34,⁹⁵

(+ 15 % service charge + 1.5 % bbo)

Entertainment:
Boleros by C-zar Olarte

For reservation call Tel 5860740 Located at Caribbean Palm Village Resort (Ex Valentino's Restaurant)

Caiso & Soca Monarch 2014 tickets are available at Post Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- Post Aruba wants to remind all those who want to enjoy the Caiso & Soca Monarch festival, one of the most visited events during the carnival season, to pass by their main office located at Oranjestad between 7.30am to 12pm and 1pm to 4.30pm to purchase their tickets for the pre-finals and grand finale of this event.

For those busy people who would like to assist the event, they have the possibility to order tickets via the e-mail ticketsale@postaruba.com. These tickets will be delivered to any place in Aruba until 4 pm for a reasonable price.

In this e-mail the information required will be: amount of tickets, for which date, full name, address and telephone number (preferable a mobile number). The amount of tickets will not make a difference in relation to the delivery cost and tickets for any of the

events will have to be paid on delivery by using any ATM card.

Post Aruba is not only providing the possibility to buy tickets here, but with the co-operation of CPost, the postal administration of Curacao and St. Maarten, we are also giving customers in those islands the possibility to purchase tickets online or at their

local post offices. They also offer the service of home/work delivery.

This is the beginning of an alliance between the three islands in order to provide the possibility to those who would like to come to this great festival or other activities to get their tickets before they come to Aruba, as such ensuring their entry.



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Treacherous new storm targets snow-weary US

CHICAGO (AFP) - The eastern US, in the grips of one of the most brutal winters in recent memory, braced Wednesday for what forecasters warned could be the worst broadside yet -- a massive storm with the season's heaviest snowfall.

Treacherous snow and freezing rain began buffeting parts of the South overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, and were expected to continue into Thursday, forecasters said.

Areas further north geared for the onslaught, due to arrive late Wednesday in Washington, DC and other parts of the east coast.

"Amounts of snow are forecast that will make travel dangerous," the National Weather Service said.

"Only travel in an emergency. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency," it added.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said President Barack Obama had declared an emergency for 45 counties in Georgia, a move that allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to operate in the state.

The president was also brought up to date in his daily security briefing on efforts to cope with the bad winter weather, Carney said.

FEMA activated its national response coordination center in Washington, while

its regional equivalent in Atlanta had prepared generators, meals, water, blankets and cots in Augusta, Georgia for those left without power by the storm.

FEMA said it had also been in touch with state emergency offices in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia to assess their assistance needs as the storm builds.

The inclement weather has already forced the cancellation of some 7,000 flights across the nation, US media reported. They warned that thousands more flights likely would be disrupted before the storm clears.

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the world's busiest, canceled all but a few hundred of its daily 2,500 arrivals and departures on Wednesday, the Atlanta Herald Constitution newspaper reported.

The NWS began warning days ago that a "mammoth dome" of arctic air would settle over the eastern United States, creating a "paralyzing ice storm" as far south as North Carolina and Georgia and extending up the northernmost United States.

'Mind-boggling' ice-

"The ice accumulations remain mind-boggling, if not historical," the weather service warned, adding that a foot (30 centimeters) of snow could hit New England Thursday as the massive storm pulls moisture in off the Atlantic.

Black box found as Algeria seeks cause of deadly plane crash

OUM EL BOUAGHI (AFP) - Algerian search teams recovered one of the black box flight recorders of a military plane on Wednesday in their quest for clues to why it crashed killing all but one of 78 people on board.

Algerians began three days of mourning for the dead from the crash of the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft in the mountainous Oum El Bouaghi region of the northeast on Tuesday -- the country's worst air disaster in a decade.

Officials said one seriously injured survivor was found in the wreckage.

The remainder of the 74 passengers and four crew were all killed when the plane came down in bad weather.

A source close to the specialist search teams said they had located the black box flight recorder, which was in

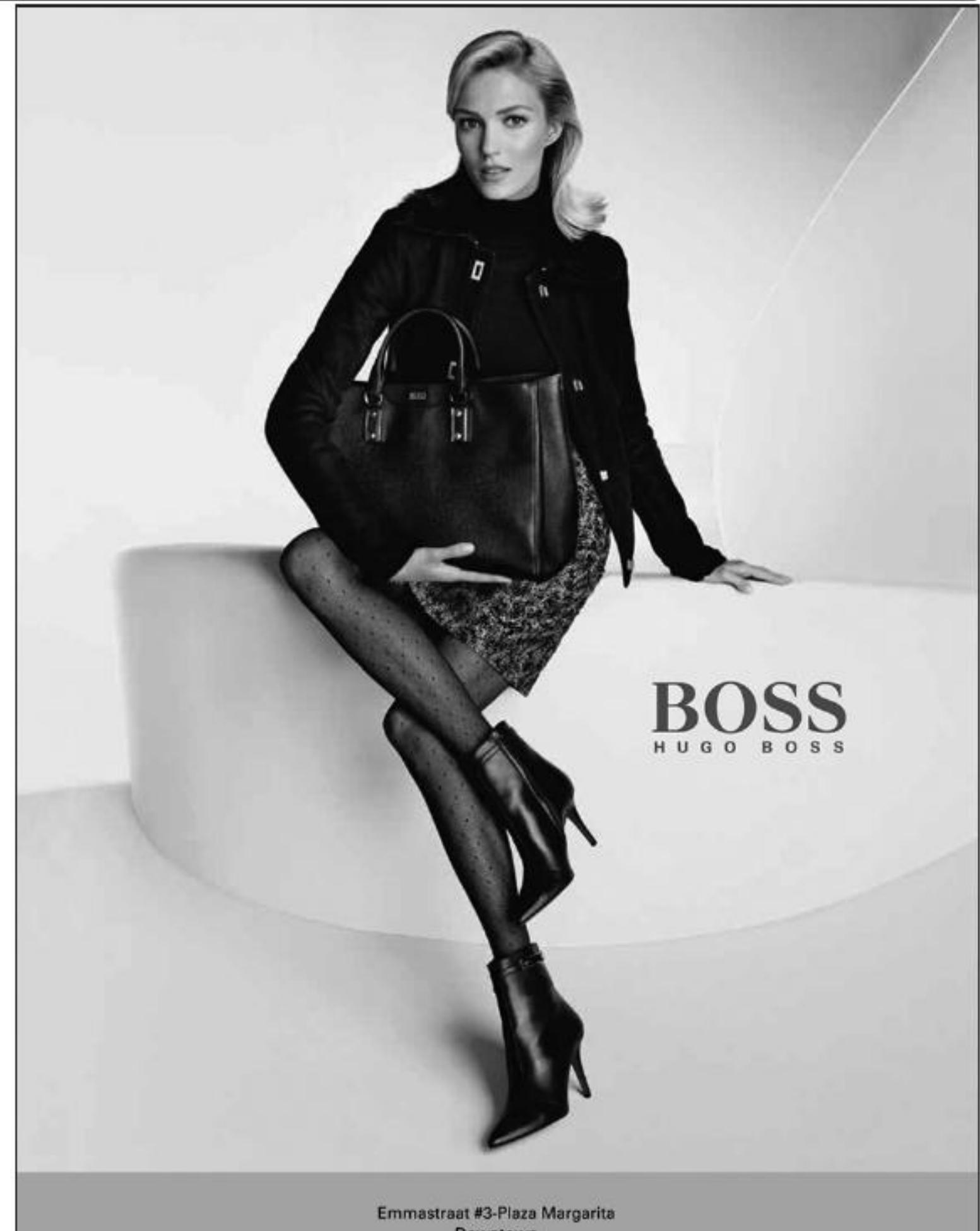
"good condition," the national APS news agency reported.

The plane had plummeted "nose first" before hitting the ground, the source said, adding that it would have been contending with strong winds and poor visibility.

Emergency services chief Mustapha Lahbiri said search teams had been scouring the snowy and rugged area with sniffer dogs since early morning.

The male survivor, who was in a "critical" condition after suffering serious head injuries, was being treated in a military hospital in the city of Constantine, east of the capital, where the plane had been headed.

Bereaved families arrived at the same Constantine hospital throughout the day to collect their loved ones' remains.



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Obama to tour Japan, S. Korea, Malaysia, Philippines in April

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama will seek to ease questions over the staying power of his strategic shift to increasingly tense East Asia in April with stops in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and South Korea.

Obama's visits to Manila and Kuala Lumpur are intended to make up for his no-show when he cancelled a previous Asia tour in October amid domestic political strife in Washington.

A subtext to his visit will

be rising territorial tensions between several US allies and China, which deepened over Beijing's recent declaration of an "air defense identification zone" in the East China Sea.

Beijing was also angered last week when Washington stiffened its line on territorial disputes in the South China Sea, calling for it to adjust or clarify its claims.

Obama's stops in Japan and South Korea will also bolster close US alliances, at

a time of aggravated political tensions between its two Northeast Asian friends.

It was an open secret that Obama would call in Japan in April, to take up an invitation from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who took office in December 2012.

But the decision to add South Korea to the trip came after rising pressure from Seoul and from the Asia policy community in Washington.

Completion date of Panama canal work at risk: official

PANAMA CITY (AFP) - Delays on construction to widen the Panama Canal could set back the entire project for months, the waterway's administrator warned on Wednesday.

Work on the massive canal expansion project has been held up for the past week because of cost overruns.

"A date to finish the massive expansion project had been set for June of next year, but the past several days' delay could push the completion date back to December," administrator Jorge Quijano told lawmakers at Panama's national assembly.

"Two or three months of reduced production and some

halted activities... could lead to us finishing the work in December 2015," Quijano told lawmakers.

The dispute that caused the work to be held up is over \$1.6 billion in cost overruns in the project, the main part of which is to equip the canal with a third set of locks.

Norwegian 10-year-old takes toddler sister on joy ride

OSLO (AFP) - A 10-year-old Norwegian boy took his toddler sister for a joy ride in the family car, ending up in a snowy ditch posing as a dwarf, police and media reports said Wednesday.

The children had travelled around ten kilometres (six miles) towards their grandmother's house when a snowplow driver saw the automatic car stuck in a ditch on a quiet country road in southeast Norway, according to the police, who were informed at around 6:00 am.

"This seems to have happened on an impulse. He woke up at night, his sister was also awake and he decided to take her for a ride," said Kai Lyshaugen, a local police officer in the southern region of Vestoppland.

According to the Norwegian daily *Dagbladet*, the boy told the snowplow driver that they were on their way to their grandmother's house about 30 kilometres away.

He later told another snowplow operator that he was a dwarf and had wound up in the ditch when making a hasty U-turn to go home for his driving licence.

The young boy and his 18-month-old sister, who was sitting on the passenger seat without a seat belt, were unharmed and cheerful when they were found.

"He asked for help to tow his vehicle so they could continue their journey," Lyshaugen said.

Police returned the children safely to their parents.

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Dutch close Utopia website selling guns, drugs, murder

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Police have seized Dutch online bazaar Utopia, a site similar to the infamous Silk Road for trading illegal goods, and arrested five suspects, the Dutch public prosecutor said Wednesday.

Buyers could access the site using the Tor platform, which provides anonymity on the Internet, and purchase drugs including ecstasy and cocaine as well as guns and stolen credit cards.

Purchases could be made using the virtual Bitcoin currency, of which police seized 900, worth between 400,000 and 600,000 euros (\$540,000-\$815,000).

"Police infiltrated and bought several items of drugs and firearms," the public prosecutor said in a statement.

Undercover Dutch police were also contacted and received a down payment to carry out a contract killing, the prosecutor said.

Internet news website Deep-DotWeb published screen grabs of some of the products previously available on Utopia, including "Blue Nintendo" ecstasy pills at 207 euros (\$281) for 50.

Police opened their investigation last year into Utopia and similar website Black Market Reloaded (BMR), which "left the Internet after receiving a lot of visitors at the end of last year", the prosecutor said.

The increase in BMR visitors came after US authorities in October shut down the Silk Road website, known as "the drugs eBay".

Police seized Utopia's Germany-based servers and arrested one person there. The Dutch authorities hope he will be extradited to The Netherlands.

The other four suspects, aged 29 to 46, were detained in The Netherlands.

Utopia was accessible using Tor (originally an acronym for

The Onion Router), an anti-censorship navigator that affords web anonymity by shifting the apparent identity of a user's computer around the world by changing its IP address.

US authorities in October arrested 29-year-old Ross William Ulbricht for allegedly running the Silk Road online black market bazaar.

He pleaded not guilty on February 7 to charges including money laundering and drug smuggling.



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Study merges worldwide data on sex assaults on women

PARIS (AFP) - Worldwide, one woman in 14 has been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner, according to the first global estimate of the problem, published on Wednesday.

Its authors said that despite important gaps in data, the overall picture was clear: sex attacks on women are a big and widely overlooked problem.

Reporting in The Lancet, researchers carried out an overview of investigations in 56 countries.

Their data was trawled from scientific journals as well as "grey" literature, meaning reports in publications that may not be peer-reviewed, an acknowledged benchmark of research.

They identified 77 usable studies, providing 412 estimates of violence.

Overall, 7.2 percent of women aged 15 years or older told interviewers they had been sexually attacked at least once in their lives by someone who was not their intimate partner.

"Our findings indicate a pressing health and human rights concern," the investigators said. "We found that sexual violence is a common experience for women worldwide and in some regions is endemic, reaching more than 15 percent in four regions," said lead investigator Naeemah Abrahams of the South African Medical Research Council in Cape Town.

The true tally of sexual violence may be far higher in some regions, she said, pointing to South Asia in particular.

The wide differences between regions could be explained by varying levels of disclosure, the authors said,

noting cultures in which victims of sexual violence are stigmatised and likelier to conceal their ordeal.

In an email exchange with AFP, Abrahams acknowledged the study's limitations.

Data were good from most of Europe, Oceania, Australasia, North America and Southeast Asia, but sketchy or lacking in parts of South Asia, north and central Africa and the Middle East. Some countries had no data at all.

Also, the definition of sexual violence was determined by the authors of the original studies, and was not standardised.

Dutch ex-neurologist jailed for wrong diagnoses

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch ex-neurologist was sentenced to three years in jail on Tuesday for a series of wrong diagnoses that led to the suicide of a patient, in the first case of its kind in the country.

Ernst Jansen, 68, "has been found guilty of intentionally compromising the health of eight patients," between 1997 and 2003, the Almelo district court said in a statement.

"He wrongly diagnosed the eight patients and used the wrong treatments," the court added.

It said Jansen wrongly diagnosed serious diseases such as Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis and atrophy.

In one case a patient was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and confined to a wheelchair when he was actually suffering from a hernia, Dutch media reported.

In another, the former specialist wrongly told a patient she was in the final stages of

isised.

But most studies used a common, broad question, of the kind: "Were you ever forced to have sex or perform a sexual act when you did not want to with someone other than your partner?"

Abrahams described the paper as providing a basis for health watchdogs and policymakers to tackle sexual violence against women.

"A prevalence of 7.2 percent is a big enough problem for any country to be concerned about the experiences of their female citizens," she said.

two terminal diseases and therefore she committed suicide, the court said.

"The court is convinced the patient died as a result of her treatment," it said.

Prosecutors wanted a six-year sentence in a case that made headlines in the country and has been described as the "biggest of its kind," by Dutch media.

"It is the first time a doctor has been sent to jail for mistakes made in diagnosing patients," Dutch news agency ANP reported.



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US names 'notorious markets' for piracy, counterfeiting

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States named China the leading place for physical markets selling counterfeit goods, while websites in Europe, South America and Canada led in online sales of fakes. US Trade Representative Michael

Froman said the Notorious Markets List for 2013 highlights markets that allegedly harm US businesses and jobs by infringing on intellectual property rights. The USTR said the markets were selected for the "notorious" label "be-

cause they exemplify concerns about trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy on a global basis and because the scale and popularity of these marketplaces can cause economic harm.

Warner Bros buys Dutch entertainer Eyeworks

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Warner Bros on Tuesday said it has bought Dutch movie and television producer Eyeworks, as the US entertainment giant seeks to increase its global production footprint.

"Today Warner Bros Television Group announces that it has reached an agreement with Eyeworks to buy all its businesses except in the United States," Warner Bros and the Amsterdam-based Eyeworks said in a combined statement.

Eyeworks, founded in 2001 by Dutch soap actor and current chief executive Reinout Oerlemans, has produced a number of international hits including reality shows *Obese*, *Reality Queens of the Jungle* and *Celebrity Splash*.

The two companies did not

put an amount on the deal but last month Dutch media reports said Warner Bros was reportedly offering around 200 million euros (\$273 million).

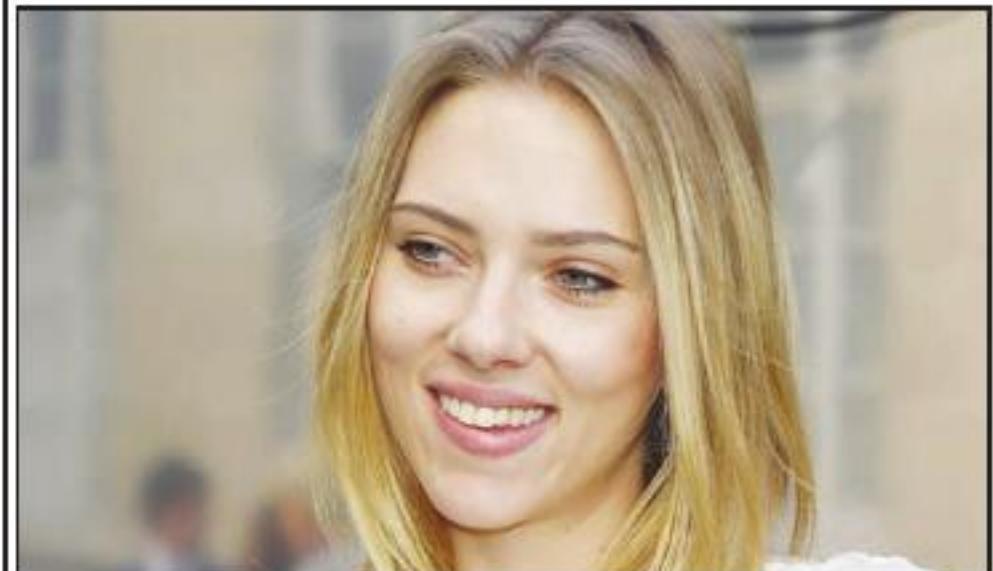
The latest takeover fitted Warner Bros' television strategy, the companies said.

"Thirteen new countries will be added to Warner Bros' production network," it said.

The deal "is an important step in Warner Bros' strategy to strengthen its position in the global television industry," added Kevin Tsujihara, Warner Bros Entertainment chief executive.

The latest takeover follows other deals in which Warner Bros bought British-based Shed Media in 2010 and Dutch-Belgian company BlazHoffski in 2011.

Honorary French Oscar for Paris critic Johansson



PARIS (AFP) - Actress Scarlett Johansson is to be awarded an honorary French Oscar -- just weeks after she denounced residents of her new home Paris as "terribly rude". The American star, who is engaged to French journalist Romain Dauriac, will receive her "Cesar" at French cinema's annual gala awards ceremony in the capital on February 28. Johansson, 29, is being recognised for a career in which she has already made nearly 35 films, having first come to the world's attention as a 14-year-old in Robert Redford's "The Horse Whisperer". Last month, she created a stir with an appearance on the David Letterman show in which she suggested that Parisians fully deserved their reputation for a certain deficiency in the politeness department.

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US launches voluntary cybersecurity plan

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US administration on Wednesday launched a cybersecurity plan which aims to use voluntary collaboration from the private sector to protect critical infrastructure from computer hackers.

The initiative stems from an executive order issued last year by President Barack Obama after repeated failures in Congress of a cybersecurity law.

The so-called cybersecurity framework allows the government to lead an information-sharing network but stops short of making mandatory the reporting of cyber threats.

The goal is to protect so-called critical infrastructure, which can include power grids, water systems and financial networks against which a cyberattack could have crippling consequences.

Obama said the voluntary framework "is a great example of how the private sector and government can, and should, work together to meet this shared challenge."

"While I believe today's framework marks a turning point, it's clear that much more work needs to be done to enhance our cybersecurity," Obama said in a statement.

"America's economic prosperity, national security, and our individual liberties depend on our commitment to securing cyberspace and maintaining an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable Internet. Our critical infrastructure continues to be at risk from threats in cyberspace, and our economy is harmed by the theft of our intel-

tual property."

A senior administration official said the framework is the result of one year of consultations with industry experts and others.

Obama and other officials have continued to press lawmakers for cybersecurity legislation, which could give the government broader ability to prevent and respond to computer attacks.

Lawmakers have been deadlocked on cybersecurity legislation, amid opposition from an unusual coalition of civil libertarians -- who fear government snooping -- and conservatives who said it would create a new bureaucracy.

US military officials have argued that legislation is needed to protect infrastructure critical to safeguarding national defense, including power grids, water systems and industries ranging from transportation to communication.

Senator Jay Rockefeller, who has spearheaded cybersecurity efforts in Congress, praised the new plan.

But Greg Nojeim at the digital rights activist Center for Democracy & Technology said the plan is weak on privacy protection after the latest update removed specific privacy language.

"We would have preferred a framework that requires more measurable privacy protections," Nojeim said.

Suzanne Spaulding, acting under secretary of Homeland Security, encouraged the private sector to adopt the voluntary standards.

Espionage malware may be state-sponsored: researchers

WASHINGTON researchers said they discovered cyber-espionage malware which has hit governments and companies in 31 countries and is likely state-sponsored.

Kaspersky Lab researchers said the Spanish-language malware known as "The Mask" or "Caret0" has been used since at least 2007 and is unusually complex, with versions that may infect mobile phones and tablets, including those running Apple or Google operating systems.

The researchers said the authors who appear to be Spanish speakers may use the virus to steal sensitive documents as well as encryption keys.

The main targets appear to be government and diplomatic offices, energy companies, research organizations, private equity firms and political activists, according to a white paper from Kaspersky.

"For the victims, an infection with Careto can be disastrous," the security firm said in a statement.

"Caret0 intercepts all communication channels and collects the most vital information from the victim's machine. Detection is extremely difficult because of stealth rootkit capabilities, built-in functionalities and additional cyber-espionage modules."

Once a device is infected, the malware authors can inter-

cept network traffic, keystrokes, Skype conversations and steal information from devices connected to the networks.

The researchers said in their report they detected "traces of Linux versions, and possibly versions for iPad/iPhone and Android, however we have not been able to retrieve the samples."

The malware was active from 2007 until last month, when the command servers were shut down during Kaspersky's investigation, the researchers said.

"Several reasons make us believe this could be a nation-state sponsored campaign," Kaspersky researcher Costin Raiu said.

Raiu said the authors showed a high degree of tech-

nical sophistication and have been able to hide their activities so far.

"This level of operational security is not normal for cyber-criminal groups," he said.

"The fact that the Careto attackers appear to be speaking the Spanish language is perhaps the most unusual feature," the research paper said.

"While most of the known attacks nowadays are filled with Chinese comments, languages such as German, French or Spanish appear very rarely in APT (advanced persistent threat) attacks."

The investigation found 380 victims in 31 countries, the most infected of which were Morocco, Brazil, Britain, Spain, France, Switzerland, Libya, the United States, Iran and Venezuela.

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US stocks mostly lower, ending four-day Dow, S&P streak

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks finished mostly lower Wednesday, snapping a four-day winning streak for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average. At the closing bell, the Dow lost 31.79 (0.20 percent) at 15,962.98. The S&P 500 dipped 0.49 (0.03 percent) to 1,819.26, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index tacked on 10.24 (0.24 percent) to 4,201.29. The losses came even as the Senate voted to lift the US debt ceiling through March 2015, averting a contentious political battle that could have rattled markets. Wednesday's muted market response is "a pause after yesterday," said Hugh Johnson of Hugh Johnson Advisors, alluding to US equity gains of more than one percent Tuesday. Johnson described current market attitudes as "neutral" after negative sentiment dominated earlier in February. Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose to 2.76 percent from 2.72 percent, while the 30-year increased to 3.72 percent from 3.68 percent. Bond prices and yields move inversely.

Rival protests jeer, cheer Venezuela economic policies

CARACAS (AFP) - Thousands of opposition protesters and Chavez supporters took to the streets Wednesday in rival demonstrations over Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's handling of a deepening economic crisis.

The Opec-member has been battered by inflation running at more than 50 percent a year, a shortage of hard currency, and dwindling supplies of consumer goods.

Students, accompanied by several opposition politicians, converged in downtown Caracas to denounce the economic policies of Maduro, who succeeded the late Hugo Chavez as president last year.

They also were demanding the release of fellow university students detained in recent days at protests in the interior of the country.

"They have taken our students prisoner. We want them released!" they shouted, as the flag-waving crowd chanted "it is going to fall, it is going to fall, this government is going to fall."

Local media and student groups said five youths were



shot when people on motorcycles opened fire on protesters Tuesday in the western city of Merida. Another 10 students participating in the protests were arrested, they said.

Meanwhile, waves of protesters clad in red -- the color of "Chavismo" -- gathered in different parts of Caracas and in other cities in support of Maduro.

They chanted slogans in support of his "economic war" against speculators and private economic interests that he blames for the skyrocketing inflation and shortages of food and other basic necessities.

State television showed images of the pro-government

protests, which Maduro was scheduled to attend, while private channels showed intermittent images of the opposition demonstrations.

Tuesday night, a government body that regulates the news media threatened sanctions against any media groups that "promote violence and create chaos in public life over the call to dialogue."

"No paper, no job!" protesters, including newspaper workers and opposition politicians, chanted as they marched to the National Foreign Trade Center, Cencoex, in Caracas.

The demonstrators are demanding the government make dollars available to import newsprint in an effort to secure their survival.

Many government critics blame the leftist government's strict currency and price controls for the shortages, which range from toilet paper and newsprint to rice and meat.

Meanwhile a pro-government protester was killed Wednesday in Venezuela on the sidelines of an opposition demonstration, a top official said after shots fired into the crowd wounded at least two others.

Oil rises after China posts record crude imports

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices climbed Wednesday after upbeat Chinese trade data raised hopes for stronger demand from the world's largest energy consumer.

The main US futures contract, West Texas Intermediate for March delivery, advanced 43 cents to \$100.37 a barrel, the highest close since October.

Earlier WTI hit an intraday peak of \$101.38, a level last seen in mid-October.

The European benchmark

contract, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in March, settled at \$108.79 a barrel, picking up 11 cents from Tuesday's close.

The oil market was lifted by better-than-expected Chinese trade data that followed a spate of disappointing reports suggesting weakness in the second-largest economy.

China's trade surplus surged in January, with exports jumping 10.6 percent and imports 10.0 percent.

China imported a record 6.63 million barrels of crude oil per day in January, up 5.2 percent from December.

"The figures point to surprisingly robust oil demand in

China, which should allay concerns that the dynamism of demand is weakening," Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch said.

Meanwhile US crude inventories rose by 3.3 million barrels, slightly more than expected, in the week ended February 7.

But supplies at the Oklahoma Cushing storage hub fell by 2.7 million barrels, after a drop of 1.5 million during the prior week.

"The market just yawned" about the overall crude build and instead focused on other elements of the report, said Bart Melek of TD Securities.

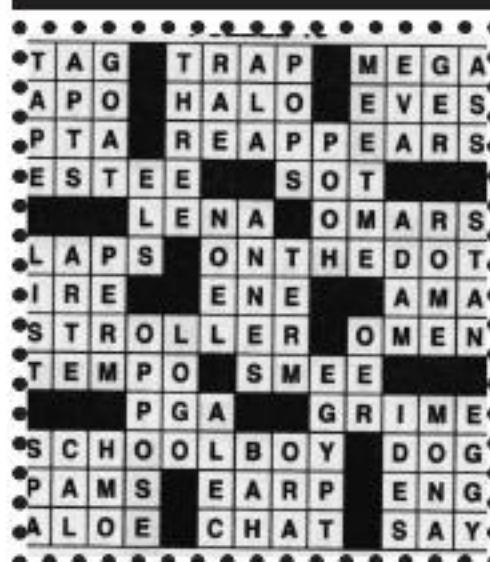
"It is all about Cushing

today," Melek said.

Melek tied the fall of Cushing supplies to the opening two weeks ago of a new pipeline taking oil from the depot to Gulf Coast refineries.

A buildup of supplies at Cushing before the pipeline started had put downward pressure on WTI prices.

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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.64
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.98
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	198.75
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	244.17
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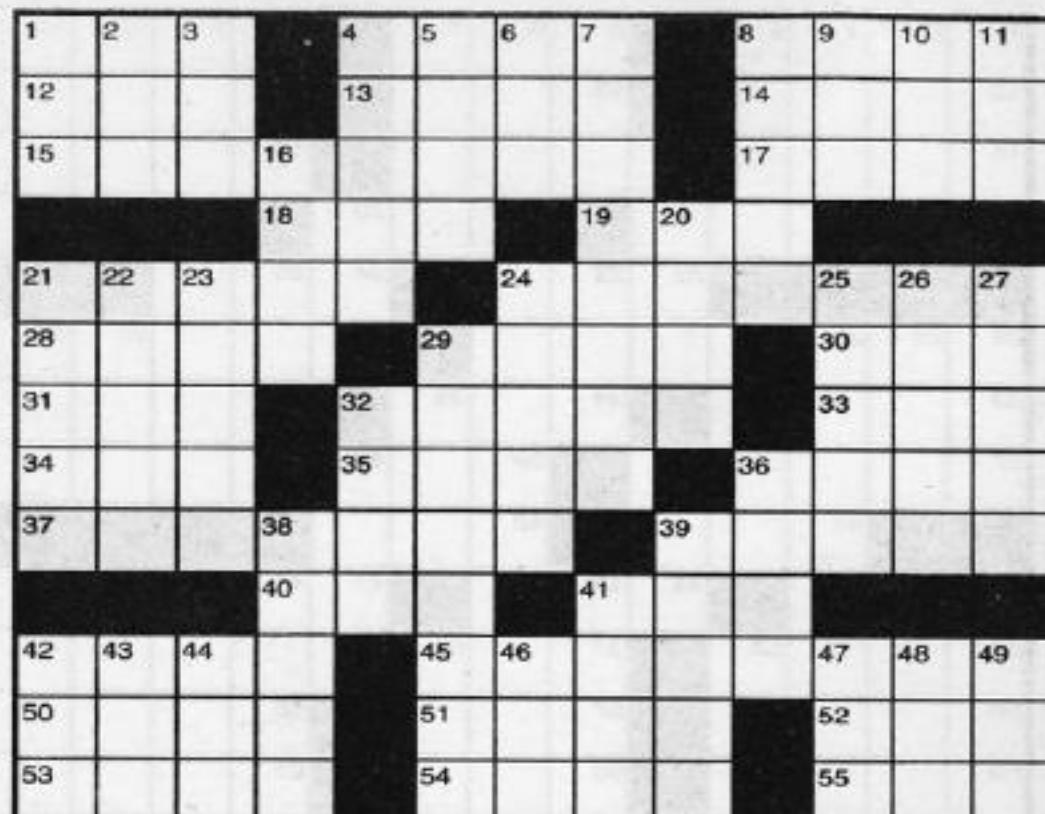


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1. Churchill's title
 4. "___ Dust"
 8. Stuffing herb
 12. "...man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
 13. Sprinkler attachment
 14. Arrange
 15. Yellow flower
 17. Taps lightly
 18. Car named after Ransom E. Olds
 19. "The Greatest"
 21. Orchard members
 24. Bric-a-brac holder
 28. Officer's helper
 29. Enthusiastic
 30. Cup edge
 31. Grid coups (abbr.)
 32. Correct
 33. CD-
 34. Years lived
 35. Orange drink brand
 36. "___ and Soul"
 37. Chooses
 39. Opens to view
 40. "Mack ___ Knife"



DOWN

1. Turf
 2. Novelist Levin
 3. English fliers (abbr.)
 4. Loafers, e.g.
 5. IM provider
 6. Steve of the NBA
 7. Rainy day accessory
 8. Have a flu symptom
 9. Movie part
 10. Midafternoon, on a clock
 11. Slippery banana part
 12. Garden need
 13. Address bk. line
 14. Unfettered
 15. "Shane" actor
 16. London goodbyes (2 wds.)
 17. Unfettered
 18. "Shane" actor
 19. London goodbyes (2 wds.)
 20. Crest
 21. Ford failure
 22. Removes bumps
 23. Mistake at



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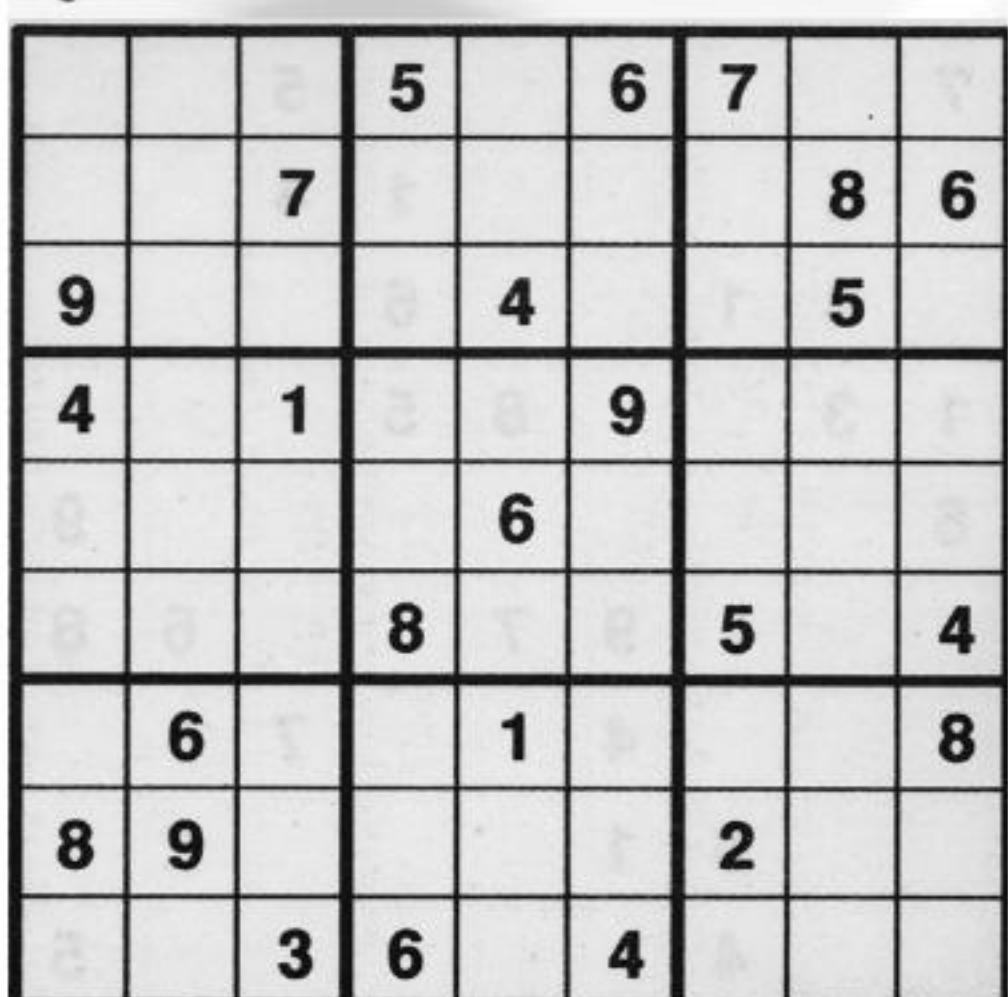
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6	9	8	3	7	5	2	6	1
7	5	2	4	6	7	8	1	9
3	5	1	6	9	8	3	4	2
4	8	1	2	5	9	6	3	7
6	3	2	7	1	4	5	8	9
5	2	6	7	4	8	1	5	3
1	4	6	5	2	3	9	7	8
9	7	8	6	1	2	4	3	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Zuckerberg tops US donations with \$1 bn: report



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg was America's most generous donor in 2013, giving nearly \$1 billion of his fortune to charity, according to a magazine reported.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy, which tracks charitable giving in the United States, said Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan gave 18 million shares of Facebook stock, valued at some \$992 million, to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

The Mountain View, California-based foundation specializes in investment and management of charitable funds, with some \$4.7 billion in assets under management.

Over the past two years, Zuckerberg and his wife, a physician, have given 36 million Facebook shares to the fund, valued at about \$1.5 billion.

The couple dedicated their 2012 funds managed by the

group for health and education, the Chronicle of Education wrote.

Zuckerberg, who turns 30 later this year, is the youngest benefactor ever to top the magazine's annual charitable donations list.

His net worth was estimated by Forbes magazine at \$19 billion as of September, making him the 20th richest in the United States.

That figure is believed to have shot up, however, thanks to a healthy rise in the value of Facebook shares, and now is approaching \$30 billion, the market intelligence firm Wealth-X estimated recently.

Last year, the Facebook mogul and his wife occupied the number two spot in charitable giving, making donations of nearly a half billion dollars in 2012.

First place went to billionaire investor Warren Buffett, who gave about \$3 billion to charity in 2012.

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Stars hail Scorsese at pre-Oscar nominees' lunch



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US actor Jonah Hill joked that he would paint Martin Scorsese's house if the film legend asked him to, as he and "The Wolf of Wall Street" star Leonardo DiCaprio praised the veteran director.

Hill, who was paid only \$60,000 for his role Scorsese's latest film, said he couldn't believe he had been nominated for an Oscar -- but said he will have a speech ready just in case for the Academy Awards show on March 2.

Asked if he would negotiate a better deal with Scorsese next time, he said at a lunch for this year's Oscar nominees: "I wouldn't care, honestly."

"Martin Scorsese is my favorite filmmaker of all time. 'Goodfellas' is the reason I wanted to make movies and dedicate my life to that. I would paint his house if he

asked me to," added Hill, nominated for best supporting actor.

Scorsese himself was among the star-studded cast at Monday's annual Oscar Nominees Luncheon at the Beverly Hilton hotel, less than three weeks before the Academy Awards, the climax of Hollywood's annual awards season.

DiCaprio, who plays real-life corporate raider Jordan Belfort in "The Wolf of Wall Street," said: "He's one of the first filmmakers as a young man that I became transfixed by... He inspired my whole generation.

"I suppose his relationship with me has to do with the fact that we share similar tastes, and I'm willing to do whatever it is he wants up there on the screen," the "Titanic" added the star, nominated for best actor Oscar.

Others at the pre-Oscars event included Lupita Nyong'o, nominated for her role in "12 Years a Slave" -- who showed off her Spanish to reporters, when recalling her upbringing in Kenya and time spent in Mexico.

"I have a warm place in my heart for Mexico as I do for my other country as well, Kenya," she said with a perfect Spanish accent.

Bradley Cooper, nominated for "American Hustle," re-

ferred to one notably snub among this year's nominees: Tom Hanks, who failed to win a nod for his roles in either "Captain Phillips" or "Saving Mr Banks."

"There's a lot of great people in this room. I wish Tom Hanks was in there," said Cooper, nominated last year for "Silver Linings Playbook."

All eyes are now on March 2, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Hill, nominated two years ago for baseball movie "Moneyball," said he doesn't rate his chances of winning, but will write a speech just in case.

"I figure I can just change a couple of names from the 'Moneyball' speech. The possibility of winning is so insane to me that it seems indulgent to write a speech, but I guess I will just in the one-in-a-billion chance it happens, so I don't sound stupid."

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Who's winning what at

SOCHI (AFP) - Dominique Gisin and Tina Maze shared women's downhill gold in the first dead heat in Olympic skiing history as Russia took the figure skating pairs title thanks to a mesmerising performance from Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov.

Under piercing blue skies on the mountains at Rosa Khutor, Slovenia's Maze, racing 13 bibs after Swiss racer Gisin, matched the long-time leader's time of 1min 41.57sec.

Switzerland's Lara Gut took bronze but pre-race favourite Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany, who won super-combined gold on Monday, failed in her bid for a fourth Olympic gold.

Maze was up on Gisin's time at all four intermediate splits but a small mistake on the final section slowed the 30-year-old fractionally.

The dead heat was the eighth time in Winter Olympic history that a gold was shared.

Russia were facing growing public and media pressure after a sluggish start to the Games, but the host nation breathed a sigh of relief after world champions Volosozhar and Trankov claimed a second gold for themselves and the hosts when they led a home 1-2 in pairs figure skating.

Already team gold medalists, Volosozhar and Trankov led all the way to seal the title ahead of teammates Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov with Germany's Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy taking their second Olympic bronze.

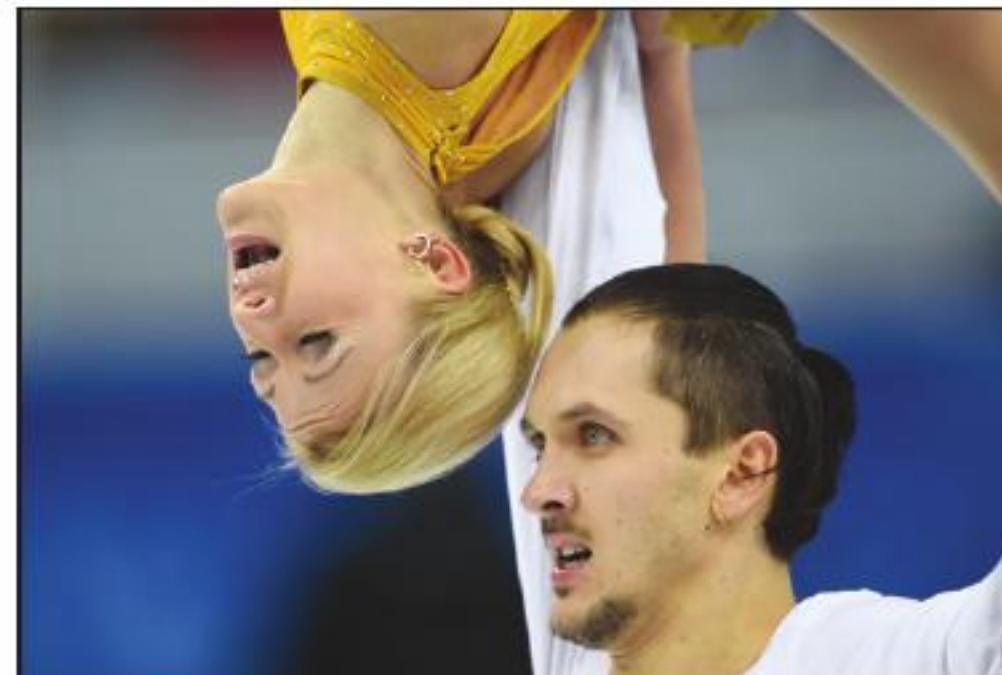
Trankov, 30, fell to his knees with his fists clinched above his head after their performance to the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" as Volosozhar, 27, buried her face in her hands with tears in her eyes.

Skaters from the Soviet Union and Russia won 12 straight titles until the 2010 Vancouver Games when they failed to medal.

Speedskating -

Germany's Eric Frenzel kept his cool amid spring-like temperatures to storm to gold in the nordic combined while the Netherlands won a fourth gold in five speedskating events when former world champion Stefan Groothuis claimed the men's 1000m.

Groothuis beat Canada's Denny Morrison into second place with Dutchman Michel Mulder, who won the 500m gold on Monday, in third.



Russia's Tatiana Volosozhar and Russia's Maxim Trankov perform their Figure Skating Pairs Free Program, they won gold, while Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov also from Russia won silver and Germany's Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy won bronze.



Gold medalist Germany's Eric Frenzel celebrates at the finish of the Nordic Combined Individual NH / 10 km Cross-Country

Ski Jumper -

Russian ski jumper Mikhail Maksimochkin was taken to hospital after a horror fall in training for the Olympic Games large hill event on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old crashed to the ground at the RusSki jumping centre and was stretchered away off the course with his head in a brace and then on to hospital.

He was the 37th jumper to descend the hill.

In the aftermath of the incident, the training session was cancelled.

Men's hockey -

Erik Karlsson scored two goals as Sweden defeated the Czech Republic 4-2 in the opening game of the 2014

Winter Olympics hockey tournament on Wednesday.

Sweden built a 4-0 lead then allowed the Czechs to score two straight goals in the middle period before holding on in the third for the Group C preliminary round victory at the Bolshoi Ice Dome.

In the other game Wednesday night, Switzerland scored with just eight seconds left in the third period to beat Latvia 1-0 at the Shayba Arena.

Women's snowboard half-pipe -

After upsetting three Olympic champions to take Games gold in the women's snowboard halfpipe in Sochi on Wednesday, Kaitlyn Farrington revealed that her father had sold his cows to boost her career.

"When I started competing in bigger events my dad had to sell his cows just to get me to those bigger events across the country," said the 24-year-old.

"So my parents have been backing me since day one and I'm sure they are not missing those cows today."

She had failed to make the final directly from the heats, needing a second chance semi-final to progress, but produced a stunning second run to score 91.75.

Vancouver 2010 winner Torah Bright of Australia missed out on gold by just 0.25 while veteran Salt Lake City 2002 champion Kelly Clark, 30, took bronze with a score of 90.75.

the Winter Olympics



(L-R) Silver Medallists, Austria's Andreas Linger and Wolfgang Linger; Gold Medallists, Germany's Tobias Arlt and Tobias Wendl; and Bronze Medallists, Latvia's Juris Sics and Andris Sics celebrate during the Luge Doubles Flower Ceremony at the Sanki Sliding Center during the Sochi Winter Olympics on Wednesday.



A combination of two pictures shows Switzerland's Dominique Gisin (L) and Slovenia's Tina Maze (R) skiing during the Women's Alpine Skiing Downhill at the Rosa Khutor Alpine Center during the Sochi Winter Olympics on Wednesday. Dominique Gisin and Tina Maze finished in a dead heat as an Alpine skiing gold medal was shared for the first time in Winter Olympics history.



South Korea's Lee Kyou-Hyuk competes in the Men's Speed Skating 1000 m at the Adler Arena during the Sochi Winter Olympics on Wednesday.

URGENT: Comatose Schumacher hit by lung infection

BERLIN (AFP) - Formula One legend Michael Schumacher, who is still lying in a coma in a French hospital, has contracted a lung infection, the German newspaper *Bild* reported Wednesday. The effects on the fragile state of health of the 45-year-old were unknown, it said, without citing sources. Schumacher's spokeswoman, Sabine Kehm, told the newspaper: "We are not commenting on speculation." Schumacher has been in a coma since his December 29 ski accident, when he badly injured his head, causing serious swelling of the brain. The doctors treating him in the hospital in the French city of Grenoble two weeks ago said they were trying to coax him out of the coma by reducing his sedation. Kehm said the process could take some time. With little information being given to media, the hospital has been left to fend off rumours. Last Thursday, it had to deny speculation flaring on social networks that Schumacher had died.



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NBA: Durant scores 36 to spark Thunder over Blazers, LeBron scores 37 to lift Heat over Suns

PORTRLAND (AFP) - NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant poured in 36 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder grabbed a dramatic last-second 98-95 triumph Tuesday at Portland to boost their Northwest division lead.

Durant, who connected on 15-of-28 shots from the court, also registered 10 rebounds while Jeremy Lamb came off the bench to score 19 points and Reggie Jackson netted 17 for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City improved to 42-12 and moved five games in front of the Trail Blazers, 36-16, in the division.

The Thunder own the best record in the Western Conference but needed the victory to split the four-game regular-season series with Portland this

season.

And in Phoenix, LeBron James scored 37 points and Chris Bosh added 21 to power the reigning NBA champion Miami Heat over the Phoenix Suns 103-97 Tuesday.

James also grabbed nine rebounds, made five steals and passed off three assists while Bosh contributed eight rebounds for Miami.

The Heat bounced back from a loss three nights earlier at Utah and defeated the Suns for an eighth meeting in a row.

Miami improved to 36-14, the second-best record in the Eastern Conference to league-



leader Indiana (40-11).

The Suns, who won six of their prior eight games, slipped to 30-21, seventh in the Western Conference.

While in Chicago, Joakim Noah scored 17 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and passed off 10 assists to power the Chicago Bulls over the Atlanta Hawks 100-85 in an NBA game Tuesday.

Taj Gibson led the Bulls with 24 points and also contributed 12 rebounds for the Bulls, whose five starters all scored 10 or more points in their return home after a 3-3 road trip.

The Bulls improved to 26-25, replacing the Hawks, 25-25, as only the fourth team in the Eastern Conference with a winning record.

Paul Millsap led the Hawks with 15 points while Lou Williams added 13 and Jeff Teague scored 12, but Atlanta lost for the fourth game in a row.

The Hawks, who have lost six games in a row at Chicago, fell behind by 25 points in the second quarter and came no closer than eight points in the final minutes.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver stretched his NBA record streak of games with at least one 3-point basket to 119 while Millsap had his streak of 21 games in a row with a steal snapped.

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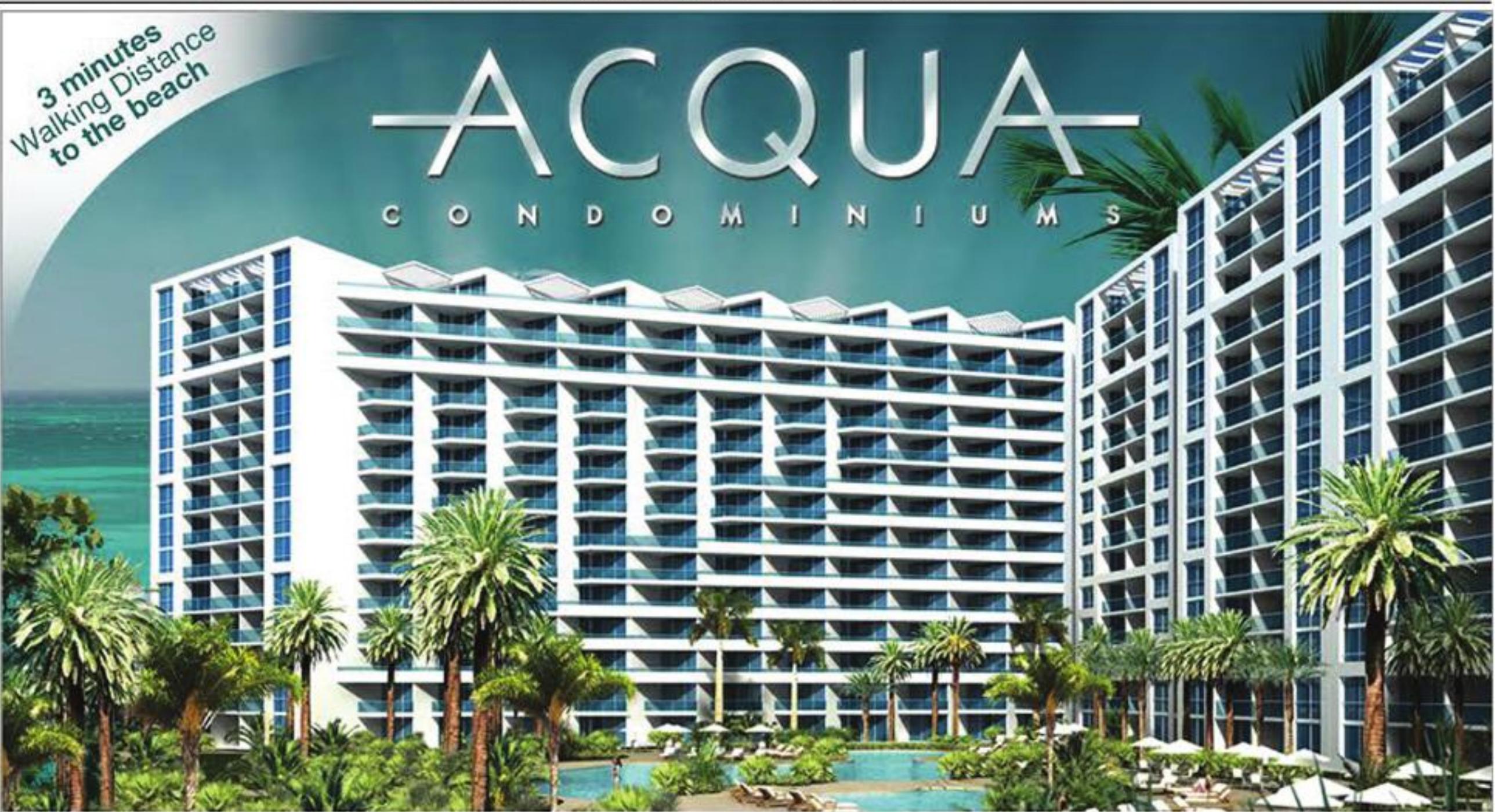


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Yankees star Jeter to retire after 2014 season

NEW YORK (AFP) - Five-time World Series champion Derek Jeter, a star shortstop for the New York Yankees entering his 20th Major League Baseball season, announced Wednesday he will retire after the 2014 season. On his Facebook page, Jeter posted a message thanking people for supporting him, especially after last season, when he played only 17 games because of a broken ankle suffered in the 2012 playoffs. "The one thing I always said to myself was that when baseball started to feel more like a job, it would be time to move forward," Jeter said in his posting. "So really it was months ago when I realised that this season would likely be my last. As I came to this conclusion and shared it with friends and family, they all told me to hold off saying anything until I was absolutely 100 percent sure. Yankees captain Jeter, who turns 40 in June, signed a one-year contract worth \$12 million with the team last November for this year. The 13-time all-star, who has been the team captain since 2003, helped the Yankees win the World Series in 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2009 and was the 2000 World Series Most Valuable Player. Jeter, a native of the New York suburbs, will have a farewell tour of the major leagues much the same way iconic Yankees closing relief pitcher Mariano Rivera of Panama did last year before his retirement.



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